

For Immediate Release

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*Washington, D.C.* -- Today, Congressman Sires joined his colleagues in the House of Representatives in passing H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2011 by a vote of 229 to 186. The NDAA authorizes \$726 billion for extensive investments in our nation's defense programs. This critical bill would authorize the programs and tools necessary to protect national security today and tomorrow.

Specifically, this legislation would support the President's counterinsurgency strategies in Afghanistan to stop the recruitment of extremists and prevent future attacks. It would also strengthen readiness by authorizing \$7.2 billion for the National Guard and Reserve for needed equipment, such as ammunition and tactical radios. It would support military forces by increasing funding for daily operations and training while providing the resources for additional submarines, ships, aircraft, and vehicles.

In addition, to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, the NDAA would include \$522.5 million for nonproliferation programs at the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy to help meet President Obama's goal of securing all known vulnerable nuclear material globally within four years. H.R. 5136 would also improve care for our troops through a 1.9% pay raise, the expansion of TRICARE health coverage to include dependent children up to age 26, and an increase in hostile fire and imminent danger pay.

“These authorizations are essential to strengthening our military and improving our counterterrorism efforts. This bill ensures that our troops receive the training, technology, and equipment they need to face diverse challenges and provides our troops with the support and benefits that they have earned,” said Congressman Sires

H.R. 5136 now awaits consideration in the Senate.

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